United Nations A/C.5/53/65

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 July 1999

Original: English

Fifty-third session
Fifth Committee
Agenda item 118
Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Letter dated 12 July 1999 from the Acting President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

In order that the Fifth Committee might take appropriate action, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 8 July 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations containing a request, under Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations, on the subject of his country's arrears.

(*Signed*) Win **Mra**

99-20513 (E) 120799

Annex

Letter dated 8 July 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

[Original: English]

As you know, in order to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations, Georgia has to make a payment in the amount of US$ 4,639,800.

Since Georgia's admission to membership of the United Nations, the Government of Georgia has always made an effort not to fail in timely making its contribution to the Organization.

The problems of the economic transition have proved to be a heavy burden on the country's economy. Despite ongoing reforms and growth of the economic indicators, the Government of Georgia was compelled to reallocate the funds from its budget initially intended for the international organizations to the urgent needs of hundreds of thousands of refugees and displaced persons from the Georgian region of Abkhazia. Given the present gloomy prospect of having to return those people to their historical habitat, huge budget difficulties are likely to arise in Georgia.

Taking into consideration the above explanations, it becomes quite understandable that, at present, Georgia lacks the financial resources to cover its budgetary obligations to the United Nations.

During my last visit to Tbilisi, I participated in a meeting of the Government of Georgia. We will take all necessary steps to pay this year's contribution of $197,428 before August 1999. The schedule of total assessments will be submitted in the near future.

We request that the Fifth Committee discuss the possibility of granting Georgia the right to vote in the General Assembly during the fifty-fourth session.

(*Signed*) Peter **Chkheidze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative